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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1949.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS:

F. G. PAWSEY AND CO., LTD., HATTER STREET,
PRINTERS.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND
COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH
OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. BATES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1949.

It has been my privilege to succeed the late Dr. E. Stork, D.S.O., J.P., M.B. Medical Officer of Health of this Borough for 47 years. Dr. Stork was in office for the greater part of the period under review and I wish to record my indebtedness to him.

The year 1949, as is shown in the substance of this report, was not remarkable for any untoward occurrence concerning the Public Health.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Eldred, Sanitary Inspector of the Borough for 27 years, who has supplied much of the material for this report and whose help and co-operation, to which reference has been made in previous Annual Reports, has been so generously extended to me.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health.

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS which follow in the sequence of this report relate to the corresponding figures for 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | |
|---|------|--------|
| POPULATION.—Registrar General's Estimate for 1949 | .... | 18,870 |
| " " " 1948 | .... | 18,620 |
| Census (1931) | .... | 16,708 |

VITAL STATISTICS.—There was a decline in the birth rate for England and Wales in the year 1949. The birth rate of Bury St. Edmunds fell to 16.79 which is very slightly above that for England and Wales as a whole. There were appreciably more male than female births, whereas in the previous year the reverse was the case. The number of illegitimate births fell from 20 to 12 and the stillbirths fell from 11 to 6.

| LIVE BIRTHS. | | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|--------------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Legitimate | .... | 305 (315) | 172 (149) | 133 (166) |
| Illegitimate | .... | 12 (20) | 7 (6) | 5 (14) |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population 16.79 (17.9)
 " " " " England and Wales 16.7 (17.9)

| STILLBIRTHS. | | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|--------------|------|--------|-------|---------|
| Legitimate | .... | 6 (9) | 3 (8) | 3 (1) |
| Illegitimate | .... | 0 (2) | 0 (1) | 0 (1) |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Rate per 1,000 of Population | .... | .... | .... | .31 | (.59) |
| " " | " " | England and Wales | .... | .39 | (.42) |
| " " | Total (live and still) births | .... | 18.5 | (31.7) | |

DEATHS.—There was an increase in the total number of deaths. The crude death rate of 11.7 was the same as that for England and Wales but, corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population the figure was 10.6 per 1,000. As was the case in the previous year no deaths were reported from puerperal causes.

| DEATHS. | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|--|-------------------|----------|-------------|
| | 222 (199) | 100 (98) | 122 (101) |
| Crude Death rate per 1,000 Population.... | | | 11.7 (10.6) |
| „ „ corrected for comparability | | | 10.6 |
| „ „ per 1,000 of Population | | | |
| | England and Wales | | 11.7 |

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.—

| | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|
| Legitimate | 8 (5) | 5 (3) | 3 (2) |
| Illegitimate | 1 (1) | — (—) | 1 (1) |
| Rate per 1,000 live births | .... | .... | 28 (18) |
| „ „ „ | England and Wales | | 32 (34) |

INFANT MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age increased from 6 in the previous year to 9 in the year under review, but the rate per 1,000 live births remained slightly below that for England and Wales. The causes of infant deaths were as follows :—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|---|
| Congenital Malformation | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| Prematurity .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| All other causes | .... | .... | .... | 3 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer.

WATER.

- (1) WATER SUPPLY has been satisfactory.
- (2) (a) FORTNIGHTLY SAMPLES of water drawn from the wells have maintained a very high standard of bacteriological purity, and additional chemical analyses have also proved satisfactory.
- (b) 4 SAMPLES OF WATER have been taken from the distribution system each week throughout the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Ipswich.

This service is a most valuable check on the purity of our water supplies after passing through the water mains.

(3) WATER IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

During the year Ministry of Health approval was received in principle to the £80,000 improvement scheme. There may be some delay however, in carrying out the whole of the scheme owing to the general ban on Capital Expenditure.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

- (1) The 9-ins. soil sewer in Westley Road was extended 100 yards westward. The usual cleaning and flushing of sewers has proceeded.
- (2) Ministry of Health approval was received to the proposed main outfall sewer to be laid between Newmarket Road and Tayfen Road at an estimated cost of £12,500. Permission was sought to commence work, but this scheme has been deferred owing to the capital works ban.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse collection has proceeded normally. The disposal of waste paper salvage became impossible during the year and the special efforts made to obtain this form of salvage have now ceased.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The Council have recently bought a combined Cesspool and Gully Emptier, and facilities are now available for private cesspools to be emptied at a nominal cost.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Three slaughterhouses have remained in use for the slaughter of animals for Bury St. Edmunds and the surrounding districts.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle, excluding Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. |
|---|-------------------------------|--------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| Number killed (if known) | 1412 | 332 | 1172 | 2861 | 815 |
| Number inspected | 1412 | 332 | 1172 | 2861 | 815 |
| ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS. | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 4 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 22 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 359 | 79 | 3 | 35 | 78 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis | 25.7% | 25.6% | .59% | 1.67% | 12.2% |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 10 | 22 | 2 | — | 2 |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 90 | 48 | — | — | 7 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 7.08% | 21.08% | .1% | — | 1.1% |

UN SOUND FOOD.—Foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and diverted to other purposes or destroyed were :—

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Meat and Offals | 21 tons 16 cwts. | 2 qrs. |
| Miscellaneous Articles | 1 ,,, 10 ,,, | 1 ,,, |

1,655 tins of meat, fish, milk, vegetables, etc., were destroyed and 716 certificates of condemnation issued.

MILK.—The inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds has been maintained. Three licences to bottle T.T. milk and one for “ High temperature, short time ” pasteurisation were issued.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.—The table referred to in Ministry of Health Circular 2/50 of 25th January, 1950, is not reproduced as there were no food poisoning outbreaks.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The work of the Department in administering this Act, has been continued throughout the year.

Details of inspections and treatments are as follows :—

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Business Premises—Inspections | 180 |
| Treatments | 68 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Private Dwellings—Inspections | 816 |
| Treatments | 360 |

In addition to the above, two maintenance treatments were carried out to the sewerage system of the Town, and periodic inspections and treatments at the sewage farm, refuse destructor and refuse tips. A quarterly inspection, and treatment where necessary, is also made of all allotments under the control of the Council and several visits and treatments were carried out at the Hardwick Camp Hutments.

In all cases the methods laid down by the Ministry have been followed which, in the case of every treatment, involves at least six visits, four days for pre-baiting, one day poisoning and the sixth for removing any unconsumed poison bait. In cases of heavy infestation, further visits for post-baiting are made to ascertain if a complete clearance has been effected.

Criticism of the expenditure of money on this service is sometimes presented, and may be supported by an estimate of how much it has cost to destroy each rat. This is an unfortunate approach to the subject, because it would be better to estimate the value of food and materials saved from the rats and from their potential offspring. Rats and mice are a menace to the public health, they are known to play an important part in the spread of certain infectious diseases and it is our duty to spare no efforts in their destruction.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifications received in the year was 79. There was a considerable increase in the notifications of Measles and an almost corresponding decrease in the notifications of Whooping-cough compared with the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There were 4 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ; but the number of new cases reported has risen from 13 to 16.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).
CIVILIANS.

AT AGES—YEARS.

| Diseases. | Total All Ages. | AT AGES—YEARS. | | | | | 25 and over. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----|----|----|----|--------------|
| | | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 10 | |
| Scarlet Fever | 6 | — | 2 | 1 | 3 | — | — |
| Whooping-cough | 7 | — | 1 | 2 | 4 | — | — |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 55 | 4 | 14 | 11 | 25 | 1 | — |
| Ac. Poliomyelitis | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Ac. Polioencephalitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | | 0 | — | 5 | — | 15 | 45 |
| | | | | | | | 65 and over. |
| Malaria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Erysipelas | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Dysentery | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Neonatorum | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

TUBERCULOSIS.

DEATHS.

AGE PERIODS.

NEW CASES.

Pulmonary.

Non-Pulmonary.

M.

F.

M.

F.

M.

F.

0 1 5 10 15 20 25 35 45 55 65 and over

...

...

...

Totals ...

15 (8) 1 (5) - (1) - (-) 3 (-) 1 (5) - (-) - (-)

15 (8) 1 (5) - (1) - (-) 3 (-) 1 (5) - (-) - (-)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises. | Number on Register. | Number of | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written notices. | Occupiers prosecuted. |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. | 57 | 76 | 2 | |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. | 121 | 17 | | |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. | | | | |
| TOTAL | 178 | 93 | 2 | |

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars. | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. |
|--|---|----------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | Found. | Remedied | Referred To H.M. Inspector. | By H.M. Inspector. | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 4 | 4 | | | |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | | | | | |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | | | | | |
| Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) | | | | | |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | | | | | |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | | | | | |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 2 | 1 | | | 1 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | | | | | |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | 3 | 3 | | | 3 |
| TOTAL | 9 | 8 | | | 4 |

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

| Nature of Work. | Section 110. | | | Section 111. | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|---|-----------------|---------------|
| | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. | Notices served. | Prosecutions. |
| Wearing apparel Making, etc. | 1 | | | | | |

HOUSING.

During the year 136 new houses were completed, 121 were provided by the Local Authority and 15 by private enterprise. On 31st December, 1949, a further 122 houses were in the process of construction. In spite of this building programme there remains a large number of families waiting for accommodation.

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1949
IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Registrar-General's
Figures.

| | | M. | F. |
|--|------|-----------|-----------|
| ALL CAUSES .... | .... | 100 (98) | 122 (101) |
| 1. Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 2. Cerebro-spinal Fever | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 3. Scarlet Fever | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 4. Whooping Cough | .... | — ( 1) | — (—) |
| 5. Diphtheria | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | .... | 2 (—) | 1 (5) |
| 7. Other forms of Tuberculosis | .... | — ( —) | — ( 2) |
| 8. Syphilitic Diseases | .... | 1 (—) | — (—) |
| 9. Influenza | .... | 3 (—) | 1 (—) |
| 10. Measles | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F) | .... | — ( —) | 2 (1) |
| 14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | .... | — ( 5) | 1 (3) |
| 15. Cancer of Breast | .... | — ( —) | 5 (2) |
| 16. Cancer of all other sites | .... | 16 (13) | 6 (7) |
| 17. Diabetes | .... | — ( —) | 1 (3) |
| 18. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | .... | 11 (10) | 31 (27) |
| 19. Heart Disease | .... | 24 (28) | 39 (29) |
| 20. Other diseases of Circulatory System | .... | 9 (7) | 8 (2) |
| 21. Bronchitis | .... | 4 (4) | — (2) |
| 22. Pneumonia | .... | 5 (2) | 6 (2) |
| 23. Other Respiratory Diseases | .... | — ( 4) | 2 (—) |
| 24. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum | .... | 3 (4) | — (—) |
| 25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | .... | — ( —) | 1 (—) |
| 26. Appendicitis | .... | — ( —) | 1 (—) |
| 27. Other digestive diseases | .... | 4 (2) | 1 (2) |
| 28. Nephritis | .... | 3 (1) | 6 (2) |
| 29. Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 30. Other maternal causes | .... | — ( —) | — ( —) |
| 31. Premature Birth | .... | 3 (2) | — (1) |
| 32. Congenital Malformations, birth injury, infantile disease | .... | 1 (—) | 2 (2) |
| 33. Suicide | .... | 2 (3) | 2 (—) |
| 34. Road Traffic Accidents | .... | 2 (1) | — (2) |
| 35. Other violent causes | .... | 2 (—) | 1 (1) |
| 36. All other causes | .... | 5 (11) | 5 (6) |

